

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5 – 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 – 17, 19, 21 – 23, 25 – 27, and 29 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 21, 22, 27 and 29 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the March 12, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 21 – 23, 25 – 27, and 29 due to informalities. The Examiner objected to the improper use of reference characters in the claim. The applicant has amended the claim per the Examiner's instructions and respectfully requests that the objections to the claims for improper use of reference characters be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 21, 22, 23, 25 – 27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2005/0127758 to Atkinson et al. ("the Atkinson reference"). The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5 – 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 – 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,751,109 to Doss et al. ("the Doss reference") in view of the Atkinson reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed in so far as they are applicable to the presently pending claims.

Claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the Doss reference. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. An adapter device, comprising:
a DC/DC adapter, located in a casing external to a portable electronic device having a power supply, to receive DC power from an external DC power source, and output a regulated DC voltage (V_{out}) to the portable electronic device; and
DC source determination circuitry, in the adapter device, to receive the DC power from the external DC power source and compare a

magnitude of a voltage of the DC power with a reference magnitude of a reference voltage (V_{ref}) in order to determine what type of external DC power source is supplying the DC power,

wherein when the magnitude of the voltage of the DC power is greater than the reference magnitude, a data signal (V_{data}) having a first value indicative of the external DC power source being an airplane power source is output to the portable electronic device along with the regulated DC voltage, and when the magnitude of the voltage of the DC power is less than the reference magnitude, the V_{data} signal having a second value indicative of the external DC power source being an automobile power source is output to the portable electronic device along with the regulated DC voltage.

The Doss reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the adapter device of claim 1, as amended. The Examiner admits that the Doss reference does not disclose source determination circuitry to compare a magnitude of a received DC power with a reference magnitude to determine what type of external DC power source is supplying DC power. The Examiner also admits that the Doss reference does not disclose the above-highlighted limitation of claim 1. (*Office Action, pages 7 and 8*). The applicant agrees with the Examiner and respectfully states that claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the Doss reference.

The Atkinson reference does not make up for the deficiencies of the Doss reference. The Examiner states that the Atkinson reference discloses comparing a magnitude of the DC power with a reference magnitude and outputting a data signal having a first value indicative of the DC power source being an airplane power source and a second value indicative of the DC power source being an automotive power source. (*Office Action, pages 4 and 10*). However, claim 1 requires **outputting the data signal** indicative of either an automobile power source or an airplane power source **to the portable electronic device along with the regulated DC voltage** when the magnitude of the voltage of the DC power has a certain value. The

Atkinson reference is disclosing only that a data signal is sent from a comparator in the computer system (the computer system being akin to the portable electronic device) to power management logic in the computer system (portable electronic device). There is no disclosure that the data signal is sent from the power adapter along with the regulated DC voltage. The Atkinson reference cannot disclose transmitting data to a portable electronic device because all of the circuitry in the Atkinson reference is located inside the portable electronic device. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over the Atkinson / Doss reference combination.

The applicant also believes that there is no apparent motivation to combine the Atkinson reference with the Doss reference. The applicant respectfully submits that the Atkinson reference cannot be combined with the Doss reference to meet the claimed invention. The Examiner has stated that one of skill in the art would incorporate the DC source determination circuitry disclosed by Atkinson with the adapter as taught by Doss in which the DC source determination circuitry was connected at an input of Doss to determine the source of the DC voltage and control the charging of the battery. The Examiner stated the motivation would be to prevent from exceeding the power limit when the power source was a DC power source. (*Office Action, page 8*).

The applicant respectfully disagrees. The applicant believes that Atkinson reference is teaching away from DC power source determination circuitry being included in claim 1 because the circuit disclosed in the Atkinson reference is located in the computer system and not in an adapter. The Atkinson reference discloses an external power source (i.e., DC in 127) and never states that the DC power source

determination circuitry could be resident within the DC power source. Thus, the Atkinson reference is not providing any motivation for the combination of the references. Further, the Doss reference never teaches that a data signal and the regulated output power can be transmitted to a portable electronic device. In other words, the Doss reference is teaching away from both the claimed invention and combination with the Atkinson reference because it discloses only the transmission of DC power to a portable electronic device and not the transmission of a data signal and regulated output power. Thus, there is no motivation to combine the references. Teaching away from the art is a per se demonstration of the lack of prima facie obviousness. *In re Dow Chemical Co.*, 827 F.2d 469, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1529 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the Atkinson reference with the Doss reference for the reasons noted above, and thus, applicant respectfully submits that the Atkinson reference and the Doss reference are not properly combinable.

Applicant has amended independent claims 11 and 21 to include limitations similar to claim 1. Independent claims 11 and 21, both as amended, recite limitations similar to claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 21 distinguish over the Doss / Atkinson combination for reasons similar to those discussed above in regard to claim 1, as amended.

Claims 3, 5 – 7, 9, 13, 15 – 17, 19, 22 – 23, 25 – 27 and 29, depend, indirectly or directly, on claims 1, 11, and 21. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 5 – 7, 9, 13, 15 – 17, 19, 22 – 23, 25 – 27, and 29 distinguish over the Doss / Atkinson combination for the same reasons as those recited above in regard to claim 1.


Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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